Student Name:

Date:

HOW TO USE THESIS to CONSTRUCT TOPIC SENTENCES

**WHAT TO DO:**

**1.** Think about your thesis as an umbrella that has to be broad enough to cover all of your specific ideas and claims.



**Thesis model:** Character A and B learn that it’s important to accept help from others in order to accomplish their dreams, but they learn this lesson in different ways.

**2**. Use the first claim of your THESIS that relates to SIMILARITIES and EXPAND IT to make a TOPIC SENTENCE that includes

* specific reasons why the characters face challenges
* specific situations and environments that the characters are in
* specific ways that the characters try to help themselves or others
* specific character traits that make them successful or unsuccessful.

**WHAT NOT TO DO:**

**1.** Use first person pronouns: “I selected two characters that learn similar lessons . . .” OR “First, let’s look at . . .”

**2.** Just re-state the same claim from the thesis WITHOUT using SPECIFIC DETAILS to EXPAND IT.

**3**. Don’t include textual examples in the thesis; it should contain specific ideas.

**MODEL for a TOPIC SENTENCE ON SIMILARITIES: Body Paragraph One**

**At first, both character A and character B refuse to accept help from others because they**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

**(Initially both characters learn similar lessons because they . . .)**

**PRACTICE** re-writing your topic sentence for SIMILARITIES

Use the words BOTH and BECAUSE to WRITE AN EXPANDED TOPIC SENTENCE for SIMILARITIES:

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**MODEL for a TOPIC SENTENCE ON DIFFERENCES: Body Paragraph Two**

**However, even though both characters recognize the importance of accepting help, the**

**outcomes of the lessons are different because character A benefits from the lesson by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**but character B suffers by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

**(However, even though the characters learn the same lesson, the way in which both characters learn the lessons sets them apart or the way both characters benefit from the lessons differs because …)**

**PRACTICE** re-writing your topic sentence for DIFFERENCES:

Use the words EVEN THOUGH and BUT to WRITE AN EXPANDED TOPIC SENTENCE for DIFFERENCES:

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